



**North Dakota
Snowmobile Regulations**

2005-2007



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME LETTER	3
DEFINITIONS (NDCC 39-24-01)	4
REGISTRATION	5
Application (NDCC 39-24-03)	5
Display (NDCC 39-24-03)	5
Fees (NDCC 39-24-03).....	6
Expiration & Renewal (NDCC 39-24-03).....	7
Replacement (NDCC 39-24-03)	7
Transfer of Ownership (NDCC 39-24-06).....	7
GENERAL OPERATIONS	7
Required Equipment (NDCC 39-24-09)	7
Crossing Public Roads (NDCC 39-24-09)	7
Where You May Ride (NDCC 39-24-08)	8
Where You May NOT Ride (NDCC 39-24-09)	8
Liability Insurance (NDCC 39-24-09.11)	9
Other Prohibitions (NDCC 39-24-09)	9
Youth Operators (NDCC 39-24-09.1)	10
SNOWMOBILING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (SUI)	11
Tests to Determine Alcohol and Drug Content (NDCC 39-24.1-01).....	11
Test Results	12
Penalties (NDCC 39-24.1-01).....	12
SAFETY	12
Education and Training	12
Riding Attire	13
Know Your Parts.....	14
Planning Your Ride.....	14
Pre-Ride Inspection	16
Starting Procedures	16
Riding Positions.....	16
Snow Conditions and Terrain	17
Hazardous Conditions	18
Passengers & Towing	19
Responsible Riding Practices	19
Sign Guide	20
Approved ACSA Snowmobiling Hand Signals.....	22

Dear Snowmobile Enthusiast:

Snowmobiling in North Dakota can be a favorite pastime of many North Dakotans. Whether you go out for work or recreation, the proper operation and safety of snowmobiles is imperative. This booklet provides information regarding the safe and lawful operation of snowmobiles in the state of North Dakota.

What's New?

- Registration numbers must be securely affixed to each side of the snowmobile in a position that provides clear legibility for identification.
- All persons ages 12 and over who don't have a valid driver's license must take a snowmobile safety course through the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.
- Special permits will be issued to operate snowmobiles solely as collector's items that are 25 years or older for parades, organized group outings and for up to 10 days each year for transportation without requiring registration of the machine.

For more information on snowmobile use in North Dakota, please visit our website at www.parkrec.nd.gov.

Be safe and have fun,



Doug Prchal
Director

DEFINITIONS (NDCC 39-24-01)

Collector snowmobile: A snowmobile that is twenty-five years old or older, was originally produced as a separate identifiable make by a manufacturer and is owned and operated solely as a collector's item.

Dealer: A person engaged in the business of buying, selling, or exchanging snowmobiles or who advertises or holds out to the public as being engaged in the buying, selling, or exchanging of snowmobiles.

Operate: To ride and control the operation of a snowmobile.

Operator: every person who operates or is in actual physical control of a snowmobile.

Owner: a person, other than a lienholder, having the property or title to a snowmobile and who is entitled to the use or possession of that snowmobile.



Register: the act of assigning a registration number to a snowmobile.

Roadway: the portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular travel.

Snowmobile: a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow, ice, or a natural terrain and steered by skis or runners.

REGISTRATION

A. Application (NDCC 39-24-03)

The application for registration of each snowmobile is made to the North Dakota Department of Transportation at any licensing office statewide.

- The application should state each owner's name and address and be signed by at least one owner.
- A copy of the application is evidence of registration up to 30 days following the date of application.
- Upon receipt of the application and fees, the North Dakota Department of Transportation will register the snowmobile and assign it a registration number. Also, a certificate of registration will be issued and will include information regarding the name and address of the owner, make, year and serial number of the snowmobile.

B. Display (NDCC 39-24-03)



The registration number must be:

- at least one and one-half inches [3.81 centimeters] in height
- of a reflectorized material
- securely affixed on each side of the snowmobile in a position as to provide clear legibility for identification

C. Fees (NDCC 39-24-03)

The registration fee for resident snowmobiles is \$40. This fee includes \$5 for registration and a \$35 trail tax which is used for the state trail system.

Registration and payment of fees is not required of: (NDCC 39-24-04)

1. Snowmobiles owned and used by the United States, another state or its political subdivisions.

2. Snowmobiles registered in a foreign country and temporarily used in this state.

3. Snowmobiles validly licensed in another state and have not been within this state for more than 30 consecutive days.

4. Snowmobiles used exclusively on private lands.

5. Snowmobiles incapable of speeds in excess of ten miles per hour and with an engine displacement of less than one hundred cubic centimeters.

6. Collector snowmobiles. The director may issue a special permit to a person to operate in a parade; organized group outings, including races, rallies, or other promotional events and for up to ten days each year for personal transportation. The director may impose a reasonable restriction of a permittee and may revoke, amend, suspend, or modify a permit for cause.

If a snowmobile is exempt from registration under numbers 2 or 3, the owner is required to display on the snowmobile a decal received upon payment of a \$15/year trail access fee.



A decal is available upon completion of the out-of-state registration form from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.

D. Expiration and Renewal (NDCC 39-24-03)

Snowmobile registration fees must be paid on odd numbered years. The owner of a snowmobile can renew his or her registration by contacting the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

E. Replacement (NDCC 39-24-03)

There is a five dollar fee for the duplication or replacement of a registration number or registration card which is lost, mutilated or becomes illegible. The trail tax is not assessed on replacement decals.

F. Transfer of Ownership (NDCC 39-24-06)

A new application for registration must be submitted to the North Dakota Department of Transportation within 15 days of transferring ownership.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

A. Required Equipment (NDCC 39-24-09)

Every snowmobile must be equipped with at least one headlamp, one tail-lamp and brakes, all of which are in working order.



B. Crossing Public Roads (NDCC 39-24-09)

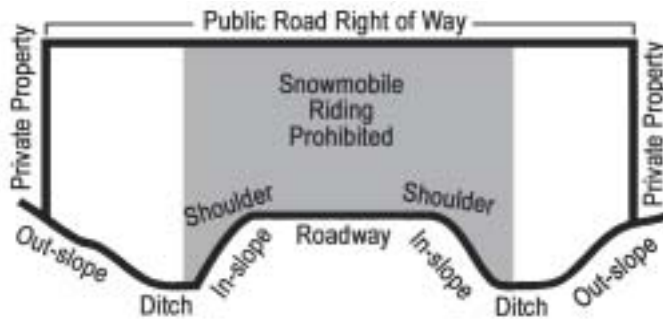
A snowmobile may make a direct crossing of a non-interstate street or highway if:

- The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.
- The snowmobile is brought to a complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway.

- The operator yields the right of way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.
- In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of a highway with another public street or highway.

C. Where You May Ride (NDCC 39-24-08)

- Private lands with the land owner's permission.
- Lands designated as snowmobile trails or riding areas.
- In the highway right of way, bottom of the ditch or along the outslope. It is illegal to operate on the shoulder, inside slope and roadway.



► In times that require the use of lights, you must travel in the same direction as other motor vehicles on the same side of the right of way.

D. Where You May NOT Ride (NDCC 39-24-09)

- Any tree nursery or planting area.



- Any private land that is posted as prohibiting trespassing. The name of the person posting the land must appear on each sign in legible characters.

The posted signs must be readable from outside the land and be placed conspicuously at a distance of no more than 880 yards apart. Land entirely enclosed by a fence or other enclosure is sufficiently posted by posting of these signs at or on all gates through the fence or enclosure.

- Within the right of way of any highway when towing a sled, skid, or any other vehicle, unless the object is connected to the snowmobile by a hinged swivel and secure hitch.
- Within the right of way of any interstate highway within this state except:
 - For emergency purposes; or
 - Across an interstate highway on an overpass or underpass, except where otherwise prohibited by law or by signing, provided the snowmobile crosses on the extreme right side of the overpass or underpass.

E. Liability Insurance (NDCC 39-245-09.11)

A person may not operate a snowmobile without liability insurance. The liability insurance insures the snowmobile owner named on the policy and any operator of that snowmobile, with permission of the owner. Upon request of a law enforcement officer, a person operating a snowmobile shall provide proof of liability insurance to that officer within 20 days.

F. Other Prohibitions (NDCC 39-24-09)

It is unlawful for any person to drive or operate any snowmobile in the following ways which are declared to be unsafe and a public nuisance:

- At an unreasonable rate of speed in relation to surrounding circumstances.
- In a careless, reckless, or negligent manner that endangers the rider or property of another, or causes injury or damage to other persons or their property.

- While under the influence of intoxicating liquor or a controlled substance.
- Without a lighted headlamp and tail-lamp when required for safety.



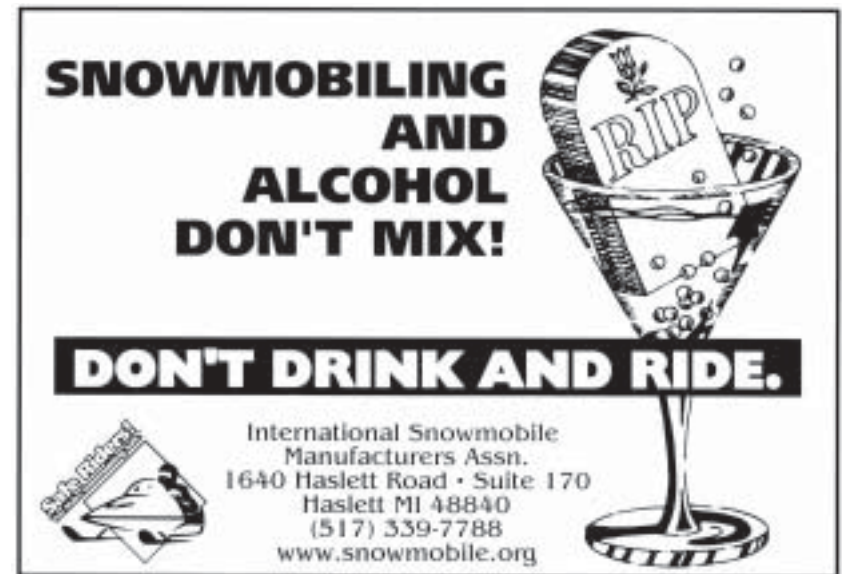
- Without a manufacturer-installed or equivalent muffler that is in good working order and connected to the snowmobile's exhaust system.
- No person under the age of eighteen years may operate, ride, or otherwise be propelled on a snowmobile unless the person wears a safety helmet meeting United States Department of Transportation standards.

G. Youth Operators (NDCC 39-24-09.1)

- You must be at least 12 years old and possess a valid driver's license, or operate the snowmobile on private land, or have completed a snowmobile safety training course from the Parks and Recreation Department and received the appropriate snowmobile safety certificate issued by the director of the Department of Transportation to operate a snowmobile.

SNOWMOBILING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (SUI)

- It is unlawful to operate a snowmobile under the influence of a controlled substance or other hazardous substance.



A. Tests to Determine Alcohol and Drug Content (NDCC 39-24.1-01)

- A snowmobile operator on any public or private land is deemed to have given consent and shall permit a chemical test(s) of the blood, breath, saliva, or urine for the purpose of determining the content alcohol, drug or combination thereof.
- When a minor is taken into custody for operating a snowmobile with alcohol or drug content or a combination thereof, the law enforcement officer shall diligently attempt to contact the minor's parent or legal guardian to explain the cause for the custody and the implied consent chemical testing requirements.

B. Test Results

- Ten one-hundredths of one percent, at the time of the test, within two hours after operating the snowmobile, is evidence of snowmobiling under the influence.

C. Penalties (NDCC 39-24.1-01)

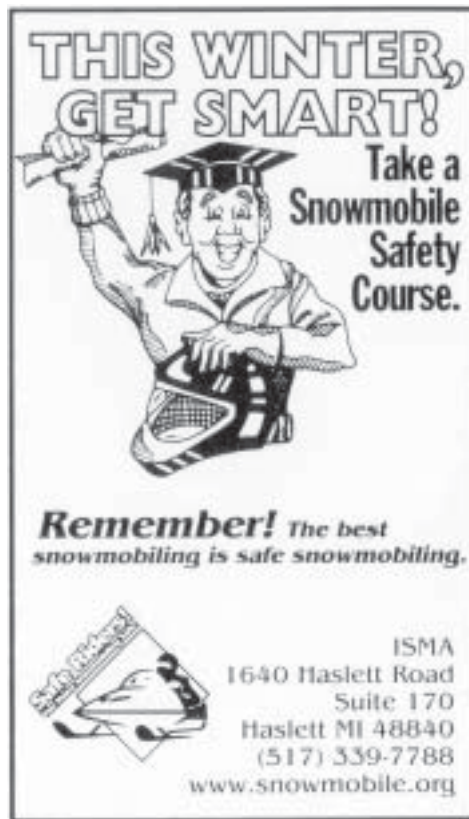
Upon conviction of operating a snowmobile while having alcohol or drug concentrations, a person is subject to minimum fines of:

- \$250 and cannot ride for 60 days
- \$350 and cannot ride for 1 year
- \$450 and cannot ride for 2 years

SAFETY

A. Education and Training

Through courses that instruct North Dakotans in operation and safety, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department's snowmobile education program is designed to prevent snowmobile-related accidents. By doing this we hope to make the public more aware of safety, danger and the environmental hazards caused by improper use of snowmobiles.



B. Riding Attire

- Wear proper clothing when on your snowmobile:
 - 1. Wear a Helmet.** Make certain your helmet is approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation, American National Standards Institute or the Snell Memorial Foundation. Your helmet should fit correctly and you should always use the chin strap.

2. Use Eye Protection. The best protection for snowmobile riders is protective goggles made with hard polycarbonate lenses. Eye injuries can also be prevented by wearing a helmet that comes with a protective shield.

3. Wear Appropriate Clothing. Clothes should be worn in layers, typically 3 layers. The first layer should be fabric that doesn't retain moisture. The second layer should be made of cotton or wool. The final layer is usually your snowmobile suit or something made of water and wind resistant materials. Other important tips to remember about dressing for the ride:

- If riding over frozen water, invest in a buoyant suit.
- If riding at night, wear reflective clothing.
- Boots and gloves should also be made of water and wind resistant materials.



C. Know Your Parts

The snowmobile has six basic mechanical systems:

1. Engine System & Chassis.

The engine is the power source which propels the snowmobile's drive system; most snowmobiles have a two-stroke engine. The chassis is the "backbone" or framework of the machine that supports each system of the snowmobile.

2. Electrical System.

Parts that need electricity to function (headlights, tail-lights, hand warmers, instrument panels, etc.).

3. Exhaust System.

Serves two functions: to carry waste away from the engine out through the muffler and to quiet the engine.

4. Suspension System.

Components of the suspension work together to keep the track on the snow, allow for better handling and give a smoother, more comfortable ride.

5. Steering System.

Uses various components to steer your snowmobile.

6. Drive System.

Uses energy from the engine to turn wheels, belts and chains that move the track of your snowmobile.

D. Planning Your Ride

Before journeying out in North Dakota, it is a good idea to plan your ride. When planning your ride, you need to ask yourself a series of questions:

Where Will I Be Riding?

Answering this question is vital in the event you get into an accident. This lets others know where to look for you.

How Long Will I Be Riding?

Make sure that you estimate the amount of time you are going to be gone and tell someone who isn't going on the ride with you. This ensures you have someone who knows when to come looking for you if you don't come back on time.

How Will I Get There?

Are you going to load your snowmobile onto a trailer or are you going to ride directly to the area?

Who Will I Be Riding With?

You should never ride alone. Riding with a group is always the best so if there are any accidents, anyone gets stuck or breaks down, you have others to help.



What Should I Take With Me?

There are many things you should take with you when you go riding.

- **Tool kit** - Phillips & flat screwdrivers, adjustable pliers, wrench and electrical tape.
- **First aid kit** - Medical tape, different size bandages, pain relief pills, sterile wipes, latex gloves, antibiotic ointment and any prescription drugs you might be taking (inhaler).
- **Survival kit** - Pocket mirror, razor blade, fishing line, spare change, whistle, matches, small wax candles (birthday type), candy bars, small flashlight, space blanket, sun block, aluminum foil, wire, sandpaper, map and compass.
- **Other items** - Nylon rope, extra gloves and cap, spare key, cell phone and radios.

E. Pre-Ride Inspection

Prevent an unforeseen hazard by accomplishing a pre-ride inspection. Although the owner's manual is the best resource for your snowmobile, the following can be used as a reference for inspection:

- **Liquids** - fuels, coolants & lubricants (oil injection)
- **Steering** - moves easily, no items bent or cracked, also check skis
- **Cables & controls** - throttle, brakes, emergency, stop switch
- **Electronics** - lights head & tail (high & low beams)
- **Suspension** - proper give, springs aren't bent or cracked
- **Track** - make sure it is free of packed snow and ice

F. Starting Procedures

Below are guidelines for starting your snowmobile. Consult your owner's manual if you are unsure of the proper method.

- There are two ways to start your snowmobile, manually (pull-start) or using the electric start.
- You should be seated with both feet flat on the ground.
- Maintain both hands on the handlebars for secure handling.
- Make sure the key and the safety switch are in the ON position.
- If the engine is cold, put the choke in the ON position and start the engine according to your manual.
- Ensure the snowmobile is not in reverse, then go ahead and press the electric start button.

G. Riding Positions

There are four different riding positions:

Standing: used when climbing a small hill or when greater visibility is needed.

Kneeling: used to climb steep hills.

Posting: used when traveling on rough terrain so your legs can absorb some of the up and down motion caused by ruts.

Seated: this is the most common riding position used mostly for comfort.

H. Snow Conditions & Terrain

Deep Snow

Deep snow requires a heavier use of throttle to prevent your snowmobile from getting stuck. Remember to make your turns wide to avoid digging deep into the snow. Make a good effort not to spin your track too much in deep snow to put off getting stuck.



Ice and Frozen Bodies of Water

The first thing to remember when traveling on ice is to slow down. Your stopping distance is greatly increased on ice as well as the chance that you will lose control. If you are going to travel on frozen bodies of water, ensure there is a minimum of an 8" base of solid ice beneath you. This is the amount it takes to support a person on a snowmobile. When crossing a frozen river, make the most direct route possible to guarantee the shortest travel and remember, just because there are tracks from previous riders that does not make it safe for you to cross.

Incline

When climbing a hill, lean forward in the kneeling position. Use enough speed to reach the top and do not stop until you are there to prevent sinking into the deep snow.

Decline

If you are descending a hill, move to the rear of your snowmobile, use the seated position and pump the brakes to stop if needed.

Traversing (Riding a side hill)

The kneeling position is best for traversing. Always lean toward the uphill side of the track to avoid a roll-over. If you are to dismount your snowmobile while on a side hill, always do it on the top hill side.

Night Riding

Nine out of 10 snowmobile fatalities occur after dark. Why? Visibility is reduced and speedy riders overdrive their headlights. Overdriving your headlights means going faster than what your lights can see in front of you.

I. Hazardous Conditions

Avalanche

Avalanches are both predictable and preventable. Fifty percent of the world's avalanches are caused by snowmobiles. If you are riding in an area where you think an avalanche can occur, check the avalanche forecast before going out. The following equipment should be kept with you when riding in an area where an avalanche is possible:

- Beacon
- Snow Shovel (foldable)
- Avalanche probe
- Backpack

Whiteouts

Whiteouts occur when the ground is covered with snow and the sky is overcast, or during a blizzard when there is blowing snow. Both instances reduce visibility and make it harder to judge distances. A whiteout may also cause you to become disoriented. You should avoid riding during times of whiteout, but if you do ride, slow down.

J. Passengers & Towing

If your snowmobile allows for passengers, it is your responsibility as the operator to inform the passengers the correct way to ride. No more than one passenger should be allowed to ride with smaller children riding in front of the



operator. Children under the age of 6 years old should not ride as passengers.

When towing with a snowmobile, avoid using a rope. Ropes can get

wrapped in the track, around trees and other objects, and also cause loss of control. When towing, you should use a rigid tow bar connected with a hitch.

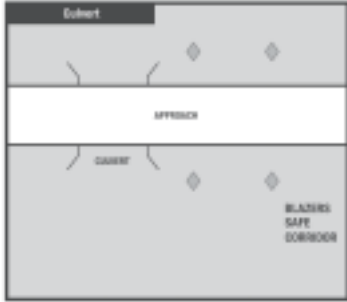
K. Responsible Riding Practices

The following is a list of responsible riding practices:

- We share the trails with others and we need to respect others' use
- Others use the trail after you
- Don't chase animals
- Keep noise levels down
- Conserve energy (gasoline)
- Use common sense and be a responsible rider

L. Sign Guide

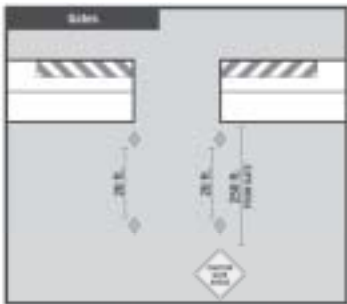
The following guides are samples of signing conditions represented on the state trail system. Please review the guides to better equip yourself for riding the trail system.



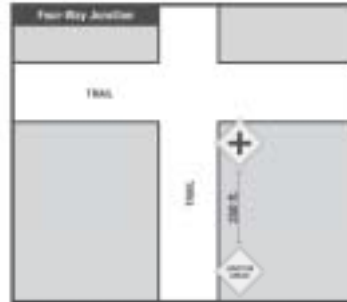
Culvert: Follow the safe corridor made of reassurance (trail) blazers when crossing an approach.



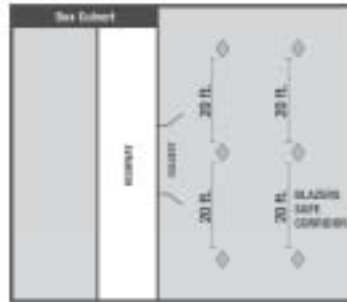
90 Degree Turn: Slow down and prepare for a 90 degree turn in the trail.



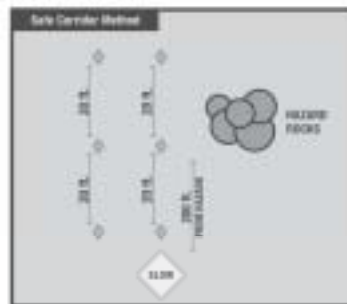
Gates: Follow the safe corridor made of reassurance (trail) blazers to safely pass through a gate.



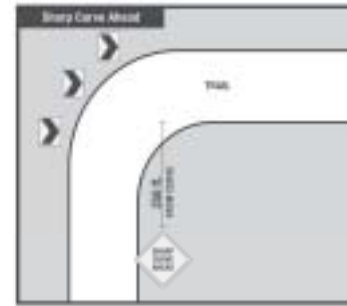
Four-Way Junction: Prepare for a junction in the trail.



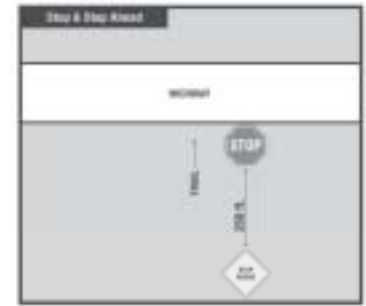
Box Culvert: Follow the safe corridor made of reassurance (trail) blazers.



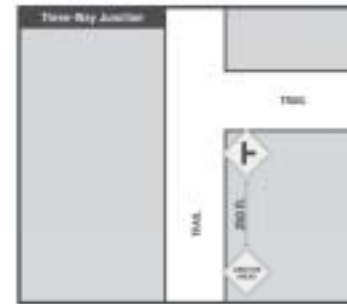
Safe Corridor Method: Follow the safe corridor made of reassurance (trail) blazers for a safe trail.



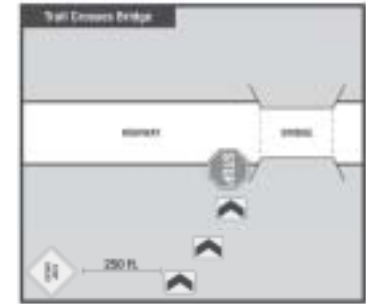
Sharp Curve Ahead: Slow down and prepare for a sharp curve in the trail.



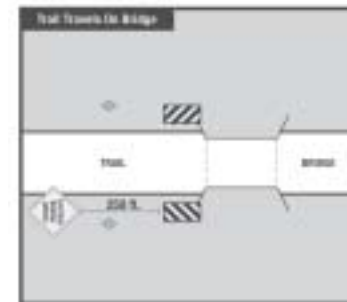
Stop & Stop Ahead: Start slowing down at the stop ahead sign and come to a complete stop at the stop sign.



Three-Way Junction: Prepare for a junction in the trail.

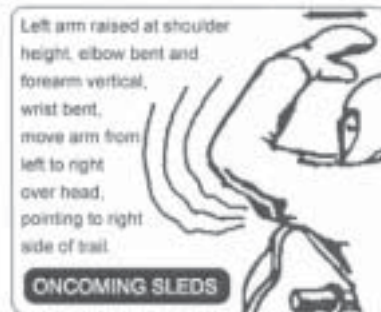
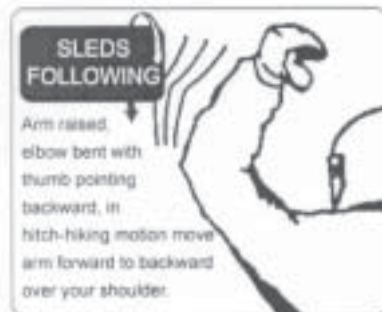
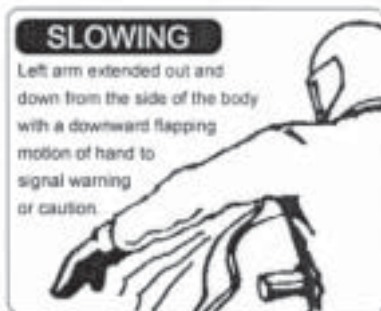
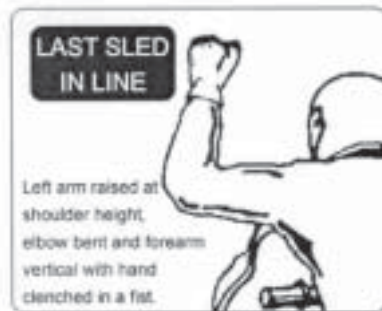
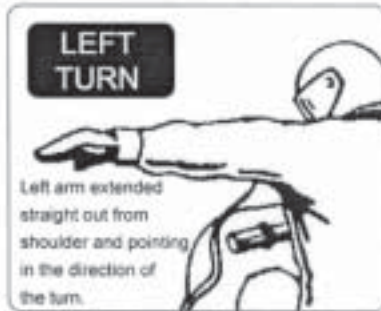
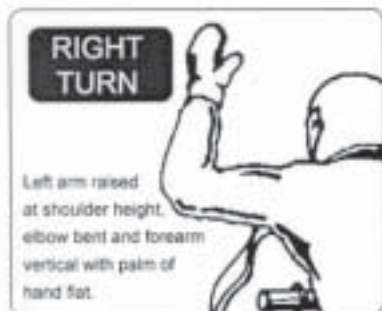
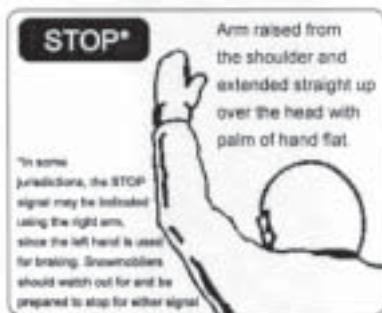


Trail Crosses Bridge: Obey the signs and come to a complete stop before crossing a bridge. Watch for oncoming traffic before crossing the bridge.



Trail Travels on Bridge: Stay on trail in order to safely cross the bridge.

M. Approved ACSA Snowmobiling Hand Signals



What is Snowmobile North Dakota?

Snowmobile North Dakota is a state organization made up of 50 snowmobile clubs and over 2,200 memberships. Together these members make up 17 trail associations. Snowmobile North Dakota has contracted with North Dakota Parks and



Recreation to maintain the trail system which consists of over 3,500 miles of marked and groomed snowmobile trails.

The trails are open from December 1 until April 1, snow conditions permitting. Be sure to check the area you are riding as some exceptions exist. Most of the trail systems are groomed once a week during the peak snow season. For the latest snow and trail conditions visit Snowmobile North Dakota's website www.snowmobilend.org or call 1-800-Hello-ND.

Thank you for your interest in Snowmobile North Dakota. Have a great snowmobiling season and see you on the trails!





The ND Parks & Recreation Department's facilities, programs & employment procedures are open to all, regardless of age, sex, race, color, disability, religion, or political affiliation. Contact us prior to your visit if you need an accommodation for a disability.

For an alternate format of this publication contact

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3

Bismarck, ND 58503

Phone: 701-328-5357

Email: parkrec@state.nd.us